

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022

TIME: 2:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 2:30 p.m. **Chairman Thayn** reordered the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Blair** moved to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2021. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Cook** moved to approve the Minutes of February 28, 2021. **Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Dr. Leon Dean Fisher (Dean) to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Blair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Heider will be the floor sponsor.

H 731 **Relating to Education.** **Senator Crabtree** presented **H 731** and said this legislation was about helping kids read better. Decoding dyslexia was generally reading diseases, not disease, affliction problems. Approximately 20 percent of children have dyslexia and it was vital to identify it as early as possible through testing and proper literacy teaching methods. **Senator Blair** said a lot of people have worked on this legislation and he asked for a do pass recommendation. Testifying in support of **H 731** was Peggy Hoy.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **H 731** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**

Chairman Thayn announced that several people who were to present bills have not arrived, due to conflicting schedules. He asked **Senator Lent** who worked on **HCR 45** to present it.

HCR 45 **A Concurrent Resolution.** **Senator Lent** said this concurrent resolution rejects certain rules in IDAPA 08 on administration, uniformity, and thoroughness.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **HCR 45** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 738 **Relating to Community Colleges.** This legislation was introduced by **Representative Greg Chaney** and he said it amended existing law to provide for filling vacancies on a community college board of trustees. It also revised provisions regarding trustee elections. If a college district's population is greater than 250,000, voting would be within zones, rather than at large. The legislation also provided guidance to redrawing zone lines.

MOTION: After much discussion, **Senator Den Hartog** moved that **H 738** be held in Committee. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 716 **Relating to the State Board of Education.** **Representative Lance Clow** said **H 716** and **HCR 39** are related and requested to refer to them both. **Representative Clow** reviewed some history regarding the work of committees and said this bill would establish a new section and direct the Idaho State Board of Education to adopt and incorporate by reference into its administrative rules, the draft, Idaho Content Standards for English Language, Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

TESTIMONY: **Jonathan Oppenheimer**, External Relations Director with the Idaho Conservation League, said they are concerned regarding the Attorney General's opinion stating it did not appear that the draft standards were adopted in accordance with the APA. Another issue was the development and consideration of the fiscal note. **Mr. Oppenheimer** stated that at a meeting last week, it was discussed that the actual cost of updating the assessment and some of the training, it could be up to \$54 million rather than \$375,000. He requested the State Board of Education to review the standards over the ensuing year.

Testifying in support of **H 716** were **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent for Policy and Communications, State Department of Education; **Misty Swanson**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association; and **Paul Stark**, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association.

Kurt Liebich, President, State Board of Education, said they have taken a neutral position on **H 716**,

Testifying in opposition to **H 716** were **Cindy Soo** and **Cathy Dawes**.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **H 716** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **HCR 39** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Blair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 734 **Relating to Schools.** This legislation protects the rights of students attending public schools and provides exemptions from mandates for mask wearing or other medical interventions.

TESTIMONY: Testifying in support of **H 734** were **Michael Fish**, **Genevieve Kagan**, and **Jennifer Archibald**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Chairman Thayn** announced that more testimony would be taken at the next meeting on **H 734**. The bills that were not heard today will be heard at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary

Juanita Budell
Majority Staff Assistant